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Correspondence respecting conditions of diet and nutrition in the internmentcamp at Ruhleben.

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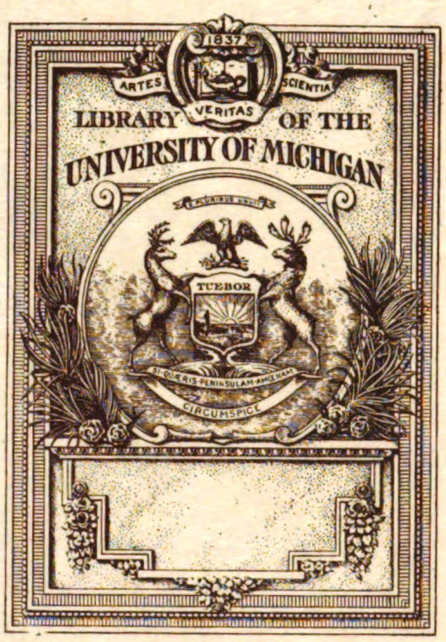

THE GIFT OF
Sir Gilbert Parker

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MISCELLANEOUS. No. 21 (1916).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

CONDITIONS OF DIET AND NUTRITION IN THE INTERNMENT CAMP AT RUHLEBEN.

[In continuation of "Miscellaneous, No. 18 (1916)": Cd. 8259.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July 1916.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Conditions of Diet and Nutrition in the Internment Camp at Ruhleben.

09 Ca 17 E.S.

[In continuation of "Miscellaneous, No. 18 (1916)": Cd. 8259.]

No. 1.

Mr. Page, United States Ambassador at London, to Sir Edward Grey.—
(Received May 31.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith enclosed copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 24th instant, transmitting copy of a supplementary report regarding the food supply and nutrition at the internment camp at Ruhleben.

American Embassy, London,
May 30, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, May 24, 1916.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a supplementary report, dated the 24th May, 1916, by Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor as to food supply and nutrition at the internment camp at Ruhleben.

I have, &c.
JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Dr. A. E. Taylor to Mr. Gerard.

Sir, *May 24, 1916.*

I HAVE the honour to present a supplementary report bearing upon the conditions of food supply and nutrition in the camp of the interned civilians at Ruhleben.

In the report presented a few weeks ago, a detailed statement was offered of the amount of foodstuffs devoted to subsistence during that time. Since then a sharp reduction has been made in the amount of foodstuff allotted to the camp. In order to illustrate the present state of affairs, the ration provided by the authorities for the camp in Ruhleben may be contrasted with the ration for military prisoners promulgated in the latest food programme of the Kriegsministerium. The differences are concerned largely with the allowances of meat and fish. There is also a difference in the potato ration. In other respects, such differences as exist would not have a marked bearing upon nutrition from the standpoint of energy content, though such differences as do exist are not to the advantage of the Ruhleben ration. The menu for working prisoners of war just issued contains per week 2,800 grammes of bread; 300 grammes of meat (including bones); 200 grammes of sausage; 500 grammes of fish, fish-roe, and herring; and 9,500 grammes net of potato, corresponding to 10,500 grammes gross weight. The difference in the diet of the working and non-working prisoners lies in the bread ration, which for the non-working prisoners is 2,100 grammes per week.

The present allotment of foodstuff authorised by the military authorities for Ruhleben is much lower in meat, fish, and potato. It provides per man per week

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200 grammes of fresh meat (including bones). It provides, secondly, 1,600 lbs. (800 kilog. gross weight) fresh fish (corresponding to about 215 grammes per man per week), *or* 200 grammes sausage or legumes. The potato ration is 4,000 grammes per week per man. Viewing the protein content of the sausage and fish as equal in both estimates, it is apparent that the military prisoner of war is allotted per week 1,150 grammes of these protein-carrying foods, while the civil prisoner of war in Ruhleben is allotted 400 grammes of the same articles, a little more than one-third the amount allotted the military prisoner of war. The potato ration of the civil prisoner is less than half that of the military prisoner.

In the absence of a detailed and quantitative inventory of the food supplies coming into Ruhleben from outside of Germany, it is impossible to state definitely whether the total food supply in Ruhleben is now sufficient for the nutritional needs of the camp. It must be borne in mind that many of these prisoners receive little or substantially nothing from the outside. One result of the present ration allotment is already seen in the fact that some of the Jews are appearing at the camp kitchen to secure food which is to them not ritualistically clean. This reduction in allotment of food supplies is made all the more striking by the fact that the prisoners of war, as a group, receive from outside of Germany at the present time as much or more food units per man than are received in Ruhleben. During the past week I have visited two prison camps in which the British prisoners subsisted practically entirely upon supplies received from abroad. Nevertheless, these men have at their disposal the regular ration for prisoner of war quoted above, to take or leave at their option. It is true that many of the interned civilians in Ruhleben receive more than they need. It is also true that some of them receive in notable amounts articles of food that must be classed as luxuries. On the other hand, many of these prisoners receive little or nothing, and are, therefore, largely or entirely dependent upon the food supplied by the authorities.

I have, &c.
A. E. TAYLOR.

No. 2.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to refer to his Excellency's note of the 30th ultimo enclosing a supplementary report by Dr. A. E. Taylor on the food supply and nutrition at Ruhleben.

Sir E. Grey observes that, since Dr. Taylor's report enclosed in Mr. Page's note of the 12th ultimo* was drawn up, a fresh scale of diet has been put into force, and that civilians interned at Ruhleben are now only receiving a little more than one-third of the protein-carrying foods allowed to combatant prisoners of war, while the potato rations of the civilians are less than one-half of those issued to combatant prisoners of war.

His Majesty's Government have learned with great concern of this serious reduction in the rations for civilians, and their concern will be shared by the public in this country. The action taken by the German Government can only be regarded as most regrettable and significant.

If the German Government are not in a position to feed prisoners of war in their hands properly, it is clearly their duty to release them, and Sir E. Grey would remark that, so far from doing so, the German Government are detaining a number of British civilians who are in a state of health entitling them to repatriation under the Agreement relating to Invalid Civilians, and have further made no reply to the proposal of His Majesty's Government that civilians over 50 should be repatriated, and that those over 45 should be repatriated in cases where they are unfit for service in the field, in both cases subject to the condition that there are no military reasons for their detention.

The German prisoners of war in this country, both combatant and non-combatant, are, as Mr. Page is aware, adequately fed without the aid of parcels from abroad, and His Majesty's Government are therefore entitled to demand reciprocal treatment for the British prisoners in Germany or, if this is not possible, their release.

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 18 (1916)."

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His Majesty's Government are prepared to consider any proposals which the German Government may be ready to make for an exchange of British and German civilians on an extended scale.

In the meantime, Sir E. Grey would be glad to be informed of the numbers and, if possible, of the names of the men at Ruhleben who receive no parcels of food from outside the camp. Pending the receipt of information on this point, Sir E. Grey is bringing the facts as stated by Dr. Taylor to the notice of the Prisoners of War Help Committee, which, as Mr. Page is aware, was set up by His Majesty's Government to co-ordinate the efforts of the various bodies in this country formed for the relief of prisoners of war.

Foreign Office, June 3, 1916.

No. 3.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to refer to his note of the 3rd instant respecting Dr. A. E. Taylor's supplementary report on the food supply and nutrition at Ruhleben.

As it may take some time before the United States Ambassador at Berlin can obtain the numbers and names of the prisoners at Ruhleben who receive no parcels from outside the camp, Sir E. Grey would be much obliged if his Excellency could at once obtain permission, if possible, from the German Government for His Majesty's Government to send at fixed intervals a supply of food in bulk sufficient for 500 men. The food would be consigned to Mr. Powell, captain of the camp.

It must be understood that by sending food in bulk His Majesty's Government in no way admit their liability to feed their prisoners in Germany, which is the recognised duty of the captor Government, nor are they prepared to modify their view that if the German Government are not in a position to feed the prisoners properly they should release them.

Sir E. Grey would be grateful if the above could be communicated to Mr. Gerard by telegram.

Foreign Office, June 8, 1916.

No. 4.

Memorandum communicated by the Prisoners of War Help Committee, June 9, 1916.

WITH reference to the question of the British prisoners at Ruhleben and the report of Dr. A. E. Taylor, published in the White Book ("Miscellaneous, No. 18," Cd. 8259), the Prisoners of War Help Committee, at the instance of the Foreign Office, constituted in May 1915 a Civilian Sub-Committee, which has registered the names and addresses of the civilian prisoners at Ruhleben, so far as it has been possible to ascertain them, and has endeavoured to meet the need of those who have applied for relief, or on whose behalf application has been made, either by sending parcels themselves or through the medium of other relief committees.

The following are fair samples of the weekly parcels sent, selected from the Army and Navy Stores, and supplemented by any articles which are specially asked for:—

I.

1 packet biscuits.
1 tin tongue.
¼ packet tea.
½ tin milk.
1 tin golden syrup.
1 tin potted meat.
½ lb. tin margarine.
½ tin cheese.

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II.

1 packet biscuits.
1 tin compressed beef.
½ lb. tin margarine.
1 lb. tin cocoa and milk.
1 tin golden syrup.
1 tin sardines.
½ tin milk.
1 tablet soap.

At the present moment the Sub-Committee is acting upon a letter dated the 27th April, and received the 11th May, from the Honorary Secretary Committee for Distribution of Relief in Kind at Ruhleben, which stated that about 250 men in the camp do not receive parcels and suggested that the requirements would be met by parcels containing the following articles:—

Tins, ½ lb. margarine and 1 lb. each milk, meat, jam.
Packets, ½ lb. sugar and ¼ lb. tea.

The names and home addresses of the 250 men have been asked for, and interim relief for this number is being sent.

No. 5.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 21.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith enclosed a copy of a letter he has received from the Ambassador at Berlin, dated the 14th instant, transmitting a copy of a report concerning the food supply in the Detention Camp at Ruhleben.

American Embassy, London, June 20, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, June* 14, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a further report dated to-day, made by Dr. A. E. Taylor, in regard to the food supply in the Detention Camp at Ruhleben.

I have, &c.
JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

Dr. A. E. Taylor to Mr. Gerard.

Sir, *Berlin, June* 14, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to present the following report dealing with conditions in the food supply in the camp of the interned British civilians at Ruhleben.

In a supplementary report presented the 24th May, it was pointed out that the amount of food now being furnished to the men interned at Ruhleben had been greatly reduced from the figures presented in the original report of the 3rd May, 1916. This state of affairs has continued. The amounts of foodstuffs furnished by the authorities during the week of the 4th May to 11th May, 1916, were as follows:—

Bread		7,700
Sugar		490
Coffee		385
Cichory		70
Cocoa		105
Dried milk		10
Pickled beef		825
Fresh beef		290
"Blutwurst"		275
Potatoes		11,000
Fresh rhubarb		1,500
Liver paste		60
Barley		250
Rice		150
Fresh milk	litres	525

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Calculating the food units in accordance with commonly accepted standard, these foodstuffs would yield per man to the total number of men in the camp approximately: protein 39 grammes, fat 6 grammes, carbohydrate 255 grammes, of a total heat value of about 1,220 calories. Noteworthy in this diet, as contrasted with the previous diet, is the absence of fish and of margarine. All the fat present in the diet is incidentally contained in the several foodstuffs, and the diet is as fat-free as it is practically possible for a diet to be. Of the total number of men in the camp 2,070 took the food during this week. When the food values of the several foodstuffs above denominated are divided by this figure, we obtain the units actually handed out to each man taking the food with the following approximate results: protein 55 grammes, fat 10 grammes, carbohydrate 410 grammes, with a total heat value of 1,930 calories.

In order to make these figures clear and illustrative, I will contrast them with the figures officially established for the month of June for prisoners of war by Professor Backhaus, head of the Nutrition Department of the Ministry of War, which figures form the basis for the subsistence of the prisoners of war during this month. In the table are also presented the figures for the previous survey in Ruhleben, and the figures for the past week of the civilian camp in Holzminden, where there are three British women and five Servians interned:—

——	Protein.	Fat.	Carbohydrate.	Calories.
Prisoner of war ration	80	29	500	2,700
Ruhleben I—				
a.	59	12	308	1,580
b.	98	24	523	2,725
Ruhleben II—				
a.	39	6	255	1,220
b.	55	10	410	1,930
Holzminden	70	30	400	2,200

The prisoner-of-war ration is calculated for 300 grammes of bread, the same amount as assigned in Ruhleben and in Holzminden. The first Ruhleben entry (I) is that of the first report; the second Ruhleben entry (II) is that of last week; (*a*) and (*b*) are respectively the input per capita, for the total of men and for the number of men taking food.

These figures indicate that the food supplied by the authorities to the interned civilians in Ruhleben during the past week, if applied to all the men, represented less than half of the requisite food units. For the men who took food, less than two-thirds of the units were supplied by the authorities of the camp.

The authorities directly in charge of the subsistence of the camp are not following the official menu. When the diet of the interned civilians in Ruhleben was worked out, the sum of 66 pfennige per man per day was allotted for the purchase of foodstuffs, coal and costs of transportation being included. (The present figures for prisoners of war is 86 pfennige.) For some time the authorities in Ruhleben have not been permitted to expend this entire sum (amounting to about 2,600 M. per day), but only a certain fraction of it. The unexpended moneys have accumulated in the camp treasury, and this accumulation now represents a large sum. I am, of course, in no position to state what the saving has been, variously estimated between 60,000 and 200,000 M. It is, however, clear that if the authorities in Ruhleben were permitted to expend 2,600 M. per day for food (with or without the addition of the accumulated savings), the difference in the amount of food now supplied and once supplied would not exist.

A notable feature of the diet for the last week was the absence of vegetables. Rhubarb was served once, and no sugar was furnished with it, but instead the kitchen-men were instructed to employ saccharine for sweetening, and a determined amount of saccharine was supplied them for that purpose. The kitchen-men followed their instructions, and the camp as a unit protested to the kitchen against the peculiar after-taste that followed the eating of the rhubarb. It is my judgment that such manner of use of saccharine is entirely without justification. It is a truism in modern food laws the world over that the consumer should never be subjected to sophistication or substitution without his knowledge and consent. Prior to the war, the use of saccharine in foodstuffs was absolutely prohibited in Germany. If the authorities in Ruhleben are not able to furnish sugar with such foods as are normally prepared with sugar, the correct procedure would be to frankly notify the men to this effect, offer the individual men saccharine for their own use, if they choose to employ it, leave it to other

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men to furnish their own sugar if they wish, and not impose upon 3,000 men an artificial sweetening agent without their knowledge or consent.

During this period of time, while the authorities have been reducing the foodstuffs supplied to the camp, less and less food has been coming in from abroad, and this despite the fact that an increased number of packages came in during May as against April. During the month of April 28,908 packages were delivered to the camp; during the month of May 39,547 packages were delivered—the highest in the history of the camp, higher even than during December. It is estimated that 90 per cent. of these packages contained foodstuffs. This increase was due in part to a speeding-up in transportation, in part in response to appeals from the interned civilians. Despite this increase in number of parcels, the amount of food received was reduced. During the past month a very notable deterioration in the quality of bread has been noticed; and in addition, week by week, a larger percentage has arrived in so mouldy a condition as to make it unfit for food. Furthermore, the number of loaves has been reduced. In the bread coming from Switzerland, a change in the quality was noted about Easter. This bread now comes in a very dried-out state, extremely hard, and on mastication it becomes gummy and stringy. This Swiss bread comes from the Société de Guerre; it is paid for in England and comes addressed to individuals. In the month of April 5,560 bread parcels were received, containing each two loaves of 2 lb. each. The following figures illustrate the receipts during the weeks of May: 830, 1,700, 1,200, 1,200; total, 4,930. This falling off is due in large part to the fact that the Savoy Association has cancelled its order for delivery from Berne. In April the estimated loss due to poor condition was 800 packages; in May the estimated loss has been almost one-half of the bread received.

The bread from England (which is in transit all the way from two to five weeks), has arrived in very poor condition owing to mould, 30 to 40 per cent. of it being unfit for food in April, while 80 per cent. of it was unfit for food in May. There are two English breads that always arrive in perfect condition, *i.e.*, those of Barker and the Army and Navy Stores. Confronted with the shortage of bread, many men in the camp have attempted to use the K-bread; of these a goodly proportion report that they cannot continue its use on account of symptoms and signs of indigestion.

No relief is to be obtained from the canteen. The canteen no longer carries butter, sugar, or milk, and has practically no tinned meat of any kind. I inspected the canteen and found it to contain only a small supply of canned vegetables and some fresh vegetables. I am advised that the canteen has reached its present low ebb because the authorities at Ruhleben are not permitted to go on the open market to purchase foodstuffs; when they apply to the higher authorities they are informed that such foodstuffs are no longer available.

Under these circumstances the men have fallen back upon their stored supplies, and a number of men in the camp are at present living largely on food supplies from abroad that have been in their possession for weeks or even months. These accumulated supplies are now being rapidly reduced, when they are exhausted the men will face a critical situation.

I have attempted to determine the amount of food that comes in from abroad, but this is absolutely impossible except by stationing a number of men at the parcels delivery to open, count, and examine the contents of 10,000 packages during a week or more. There are now some twenty-five organisations sending packages of food into Ruhleben. Some of these organisations send to their members, others send to names that have been provided by friends, families, or organisations. Appended is a list of the associations that more or less regularly send parcels to Ruhleben.

At least one-half of the food parcels coming into the camp proceed from sources outside of the lists. About 2,000 names are upon these various lists, some of these 2,000 receive private packages from their own families. These packages, together with those sent to the remaining 1,200 men, who subsist largely upon private packages, make up at least half of the total number; 250 men are known to receive practically no aid whatever from the outside, and 500 more receive packages so rarely that the contents are of little material aid. It is, for example, common experience for a man to receive one package a week or a fortnight containing not more than the food supply for one day.

About 1,600 of the British subjects draw relief funds. These men purchase in the canteen, or did when it contained anything they wished. They also purchase to some extent from other prisoners. As stated, not only is very little on sale in the canteen, but the prices are very high for unit food value.

In the camp is a group of some 300 or more men, who belong to a group at

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first termed "pro-German," but now termed "countryless" ("heimatslos"). These men were born in Germany, or have lived here since childhood; but since they were of British parentage they were technically regarded as of British citizenship, or at least not of German citizenship, though they are to a large extent German in interests and sympathies. Since these men are not upon the British relief lists, a special German relief was organised for their benefit some time ago. Through the instrumentality, and largely through the personal generosity, of Prince Max of Baden, a relief fund of considerable size was raised in order to relieve the needs of these men who are interned in the British civilian camp; 100 of these men receive regularly one or the other of the following packages each week :—

1 lb. jam.	$\frac{1}{10}$ lb. sardines.
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. sugar.	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. condensed milk.
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sausage.	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. sugar.
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. condensed milk.	80 grammes soap.
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. cocoa.	

Though these men receive nothing else from the outside, it is interesting to note that their sugar ration (they also receive the regular camp sugar ration) is much larger than the legal ration now authorised in Germany. The 200 men not upon this German relief list received during the month of May about 2,000 packages of foodstuffs sent into the camp from friends, families, or associations in Germany. The contents of these packages, however, is low in food units, and, in particular, no meats are now being included in these packages.

The interned men are deeply dissatisfied with the present state of affairs. It has always been their understanding that it was the policy and the intention of the German Government to supply them with a physiologically adequate ration. A review of the present ration of the prisoners of war indicates that it is the aim of the "Kriegs-ernährungsamt" to supply a ration which shall be physiologically adequate, though professedly containing little more than enough to cover minimal requirements; and it is believed that the official prisoners' ration contains as much as the daily food of many millions of German subjects. There is no question that the official prison ration is an adequate ration from the standpoint of animal nutrition. In addition to this allotted camp ration the prisoners possess the foods sent in from abroad as addenda.

In the case of the Russian prisoners, these extra foodstuffs sent in from abroad are small in amount; in the case of the French, moderate; in the case of the English, large. In all the prison camps that I have visited it is the practice to prepare food for the number of men in the camp, irrespective of nationality, in accordance with the menu of Professor Backhaus. As a rule, the British prisoners take little or none of the food, and their share is eaten by prisoners of other nationalities. In Ruhleben, the state of affairs at present existing has convinced the interned civilians that the situation is, so to speak, reversed: that the German authorities seem to regard the foodstuffs sent in from abroad as the regular diet of the interned men, and the camp allotments as the addenda.

Viewed purely as a problem in feeding from the standpoint of the nutritional needs of the interned civilians in Ruhleben, it will be impossible objectively and scientifically to attempt a solution of the existing problem in the absence of definite information as to what the German and British Governments wish to do. If the German Government will state what sum of money it will expend and for what particular foodstuffs for the subsistence of the interned civilians in Ruhleben, this information could then be transmitted to the British Government and to the Relief Associations herein named, and also to the men themselves. With such information in hand, scientific and organised relief could be undertaken. If the British Government, the British Relief Associations, and the British interned civilians can be informed that the German Government is prepared to appropriate so-and-so much money, which will provide rations covering three-fourths or one-half or one-fourth, or any other proportion of the food-needs of the camp, it will then be possible for them to determine upon proper measures for the alleviation of the present conditions or confusion, dissatisfaction, and need. There is no question that half the men interned in Ruhleben are to-day not as well fed as are the British prisoners of war.

Appended is a list of the organisations now sending food into Ruhleben, with descriptive comments.

I have, &c.
ALONZO ENGELHART TAYLOR.

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Society.	Secretary.	Class of Recipient.	Time and Method of Dispatch.	Remarks.
1. Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen	Miss Newnham, Riby Square, Grimsby	Grimsby and Boston fishermen	Parcels post; Grimsby men weekly, Boston men fortnightly	Works in conjunction with No. 9 as far as Boston men are concerned.
2. Merchant Seamen's Help Society	Miss Neeld, Malmesbury	Seamen ..	Parcels post ..	Parcels come from all parts of England. Very difficult to check. Mostly done by co-operation of ships' captains in camp. Bread despatched in co-operation with No. 4.
3. Merchant Service Guild	T. W. Moore, The Arcade, Lord Street, Liverpool	Officers of the Merchant Service	Parcels post every three or four weeks	Bread (five loaves) and provisions. Probably kept going by league funds, and not public subscriptions. Guild is being organised in camp.
4. Bread Fund, Bedford	Mrs. Picton, Warlow, Bedford	Universal ..	Parcels post; irregular	Partly public subscription, partly specific donations.
5. Royal Savoy Association for the Relief of British Prisoners of War, 7, Savoy Hill, Strand	.. ..	Universal ..	Parcels post; irregular	Same as No. 4; seems not very well organised.
6. Mayoress of Birmingham Fund, Birmingham	.. ..	Birmingham men	Parcels post ..	Principally bread.
7. "Evening News" British Prisoners of War Fund, 130, Fleet Street, London, E.C.	.. ..	Universal ..	Parcels post; irregular	Very little now coming in.
8. Lady Nunburnholme, Voluntary Aid Committee, 150, Spring Bank, Hull	.. ..	Hull men ..	Parcels post ..	Worked in conjunction with Hull Sailors' Fund. Camp representative, L. P. Warnes, VIII.
9. W. Royal, South Street, Boston	.. ..	Boston fishermen	Parcels post fortnightly	Public subscription. Probably to large extent friends and acquaintances of recipients.
10. Sunderland Civilian Prisoners of War Fund	J. Rowley Storey, 62, John Street, Sunderland	Parcels post monthly, bread from Berne weekly	Sunderland and Tyneside men	Branch of the Durham Light Infantry Prisoners of War Fund, Sunderland.
11. J. S. Spoor, Rochester	.. ..	Kentish men and men of Kent	Parcels post; weekly	Bread. Probably provided by funds of County Society in England.
12. Lady Bective, 53, Grosvenor Street, London, W.	.. ..	Universal ..	Parcels post; irregular	Appears to be little or no organisation. Several men still receiving parcels after writing that they did not need them.
13. Aberdeen and District Pol. W. Bureau, County Buildings, Aberdeen	.. ..	Aberdeen men ..	Parcels post; irregular.	
14. Marine Engineers Association	.. ..	Engineers of the Merchant Service	American Express, in bulk	About 400–500 parcels monthly, c/o F. E. Panning, XI.
15. Amalgamated Society of Engineers	.. ..	Engineers ..	Two monthly; American Express.	
16 Nottingham Comforts for Troops Fund	Miss B. Whitby, Washington Buildings, High Pavement, Nottingham	Nottingham men (?)	Parcels post.	
17. Mrs. Winram, 2, Warrender Park Crescent, Edinburgh	.. ..	Edinburgh men (nominally)	Parcels post; irregular.	
18. "Shields Gazette" Fund, South Shields	.. ..	Shields men ..	American Express, bulk	C/o Capt. N. W. Ashworth, IV. Equivalent of about one parcel per month.

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Society.	Secretary.	Class of Recipient.	Time and Method of Dispatch.	Remarks.
19. Mrs. Moore-Smeaton, Broughby Ferry.				
20. Rev. W. Popham, Barry Dock.				
21. Dundee.				
22. Wolverhampton Mossin Lodge	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	Not over 150, about all three weeks.
23. "Weekly Dispatch" Tobacco (Limited) Jockey Club	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	109 receipts.

No. 6.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, June* 23, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have read with much concern the reports drawn up by Dr. A. E. Taylor, of the United States Embassy at Berlin, on the food supply and nutrition at Ruhleben, which you were good enough to enclose in your notes of the 30th ultimo and 20th instant.

It appears from Dr. Taylor's last report that the food supplied by the German authorities to the interned civilians at Ruhleben during the week ending the 14th June, if applied to all the men, represented less than half of the requisite food units. It also appears that much of the bread coming from outside Germany during the last month is of inferior quality or has arrived in bad condition.

In my note of the 3rd instant, I had the honour to state that if the German Government are not in a position to feed the prisoners in their hands properly, it is clearly their duty to release them.

His Majesty's Government are still awaiting the reply of the German Government to their proposal that British and German civilians should be released, if over 50 and if over 45 in cases where they are unfit for service in the field, in both cases subject to the condition that there are no military reasons for their detention, and they had intended, in the event of the German Government accepting this proposal, to make a further proposal.

In view, however, of the serious state of affairs revealed in your Excellency's note, I shall be much obliged if your Excellency will request the United States Ambassador at Berlin by telegraph to propose to the German Government that the whole of the British civilians at Ruhleben shall be released in exchange for a similar number of German civilians interned in this country.

Should the German Government not accept this proposal within a week from the receipt by them of the telegraphic summary of this note, His Majesty's Government will be compelled to consider what course they should take with reference to the rations at present supplied to German civilians interned in this country.

I have, &c.
E. GREY.

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MISCELLANEOUS. No. 21 (1916).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Conditions of Diet and Nutrition in the Internment Camp at Ruhleben.

[In continuation of "Miscellaneous, No. 18 (1916)": Cd. 8259.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty. July 1916.

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